

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending.

Claims 7-11, 18-22, 27-31, 33 and 35 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 6, 12, 17, 23, 24, 26, 32, and 34 stand rejected.

Claims 2-5, 13-16 and 25 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Appreciation is expressed for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-5, 13-16 and 25. However, at this time, Applicants request reconsideration of claims 1, 6, 12, 17, 23, 24, 26, 32, and 34 in light of the remarks that follow.

Specification

The Office Action recites a paragraph regarding the proper language and format for an abstract without specifically indicating any informalities or objections. Applicants respectfully submit that the abstract as written satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.72(b). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that any objections be withdrawn or informalities be clearly indicated.

The disclosure is objected to because Figures 6A and 6B are not separately described in the Brief Description of drawings. Applicants have amended the specification to include references to Figures 6A and 6B and accordingly respectfully request the objection to be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 4 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action states that "it is not clear how the first and second current directions are obtained". Applicants respectfully submit that the claim language of claims 4 and 15 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard is the invention. For example, the Applicants describe the method of obtaining the first and second current directions as seen in at least Figure 5 and paragraphs [0022] through [0030] of Applicants' Specification. The Applicants submit that the scope of the claimed subject matter can be determined by one having ordinary skill in the art in light of the specification, and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Maddaloni, U.S. Patent No. 4,341,364 ("Maddaloni"). Claims 1 and 12 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by JP 4-76845.

Maddaloni discloses a method of detecting tape breakage "if one disc is stopped and the other is rotating". Maddaloni teaches that the method ensures that "wherever one of the two discs stops while the other continues to rotate" the tape cassette will be ejected. *See, e.g., Maddaloni column 3, lines 1-10.* Thus, while Maddaloni discloses a method determining tape breakage based on the detection of *movement or rest* of each reel, Maddaloni does not disclose detecting the *direction of the movement* of each tape reel.

JP 4-76845 discloses "when magnetic tape 21 is broken...in the midst of its traveling upon entering into a mode, the supply side tape reel 22 is not rotated, and this is detected by an end detecting sensor". *See Abstract.* Thus, while JP 4-76845 discloses detecting tape breakage when the supply reel is not rotated, JP 4-76845 does not disclose *detecting the direction of the movement* of each tape reel.

In contrast to both Maddaloni and JP 4-76845, Applicants' independent claims 1 and 12 recite, *inter alia*, "determining a *first rotation direction* of a first tape reel; determining a *second rotation direction* of a second tape reel" (emphasis added).

Accordingly, because Maddaloni fails to teach or suggest all of Applicants' claim limitations, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 12 are allowable over Maddaloni for at least this reason. Claims 2-5 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable over Maddaloni for at least this

reason. Claims 13-16 depend from independent claim 12 and are allowable over Maddaloni for at least this reason.

Similarly, because JP 4-76845 also fails to teach or suggest all of Applicants' claim limitations, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 12 are allowable over JP 4-76845 for at least this reason. Claims 2-5 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable over JP 4-76845 for at least this reason. Claims 13-16 depend from independent claim 12 and are allowable over JP 4-76845 for at least this reason.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6, 17, 23, 24, 26, 32, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Maddaloni in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art.

In re claims 6 and 17, Applicants submit above that Maddaloni fails to teach or suggest all of Applicants' claim limitations in, at least, independent claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, as claims 6 and 17 depend from claims 1 and 12, respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claim limitations of claim 6 and 17 have not been shown by Maddaloni in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, alone or in combination. It follows then that a *prima facie* case of obvious has not been met with respect to claims 6 and 17. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is allowable for at least this reason.

over Maddaloni and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, either alone or in combination.

In re claims 23, 32, and 34, Maddaloni discloses a system for detecting tape breakage "if one disc is stopped and the other is rotating". Maddaloni teaches that the system ensures that "wherever one of the two discs stops while the other continues to rotate" the tape cassette will be ejected. *See, e.g., Maddaloni column 3, lines 1-10.* Thus, while Maddaloni discloses a method determining tape breakage based on the detection of *movement or rest* of each reel, Maddaloni does not disclose *detecting the direction* of the movement of each tape reel and stopping the rotation of the first tape reel and the second tape reel *if the first rotation direction of the first tape reel is different than a second rotation direction of the second tape reel.*

In contrast, Applicants' independent claims 23, 32, and 34 recite, *inter alia*, the "processing apparatus receives signals from said hall sensor detection logic and stops the rotation of said first tape reel and the second tape reel *if the first rotation direction of the first tape reel is different than a second rotation direction of the second tape reel*".

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claim limitations of claims 23, 32, and 34 have not been shown by Maddaloni in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, alone or in combination. It follows then that a *prima facie* case of obvious has not been met with respect to claims 23, 32, and 34. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 23, 32, and 34 are

allowable for at least this reason, over Maddaloni and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, either alone or in combination. Claims 24-26 depend from independent claim 23 and are allowable over Maddaloni and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art for at least this reason.

Claims 6, 17, 23, 24, 26, 32, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over JP 4-76845 in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art.

In re claims 6 and 17, Applicants submit above that JP 4-76845 fails to teach or suggest all of Applicants claim limitations in, at least, independent claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, as claims 6 and 17 depend from claims 1 and 12, respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claim limitations of claim 6 and 17 have not been shown by JP 4-76845 in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, alone or in combination. It follows then that a *prima facie* case of obvious has not been met with respect to claims 6 and 17. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is allowable for at least this reason, over JP 4-76845 and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, either alone or in combination.

In re claims 23, 32, and 34, JP 4-76845 discloses "when magnetic tape 21 is broken...in the midst of its traveling upon entering into a mode, the supply side tape reel 22 is not rotated, and this is detected by an end detecting sensor". Thus, while JP 4-76845 discloses detecting tape breakage when the supply reel is not rotated, does not disclose *detecting the direction* of the movement of each

tape reel and stopping the rotation of the first tape reel and the second tape reel
*if the first rotation direction of the first tape reel is different than a second rotation
direction of the second tape reel.*

In contrast, Applicants' independent claims 23, 32, and 34 recite, *inter alia*, the "processing apparatus receives signals from said hall sensor detection logic and stops the rotation of said first tape reel and the second tape reel *if the first rotation direction of the first tape reel is different than a second rotation direction of the second tape reel*".

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claim limitations of claims 23, 32, and 34 have not been shown by JP 4-76845 in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, alone or in combination. It follows then that a *prima facie* case of obvious has not been met with respect to claims 23, 32, and 34. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 23, 32, and 34 are allowable for at least this reason, over JP 4-76845 and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, either alone or in combination. Claims 24-26 depend from independent claim 23 and are allowable over JP 4-76845 and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the numbers provided below.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being faxed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA,
22313-1450, herewith.

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